

National Organization Presentations – Group Discussion

After hearing presentations from the national organizations, the group discussed ways to further impact perinatal HIV transmission. The group was especially interested in exploring ways to communicate with the “hardest to reach women.”

One avenue for communicating with the hardest to reach is increasing efforts with adolescents and women in prison. Another is offering rapid HIV testing during labor, which would help identify women with HIV who received little or no prenatal care.

There was concern that public health may grow complacent after successfully reducing transmission 95 percent. Magda Peck generated group interest in creating a vehicle or mechanism to identify the hardest to reach women. One vehicle could be a descriptive document, starting with the list of communities of the hardest to reach women based on input from providers and consumers.

By developing this document, the group could move toward methodologies that target the appropriate communities. The group thought it would be of particular importance to include substance abuse case management when identifying the populations and developing methodologies.

The group expressed a clear desire to remain in contact through conference calls, to keep abreast of the activities of the other groups and foster collaboration. The first conference call was scheduled for April 11, 2002.

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